

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator and an electrolyte, wherein:

said electrolyte contains volatile organic acid, and

a content of said volatile organic acid is equal to 250 mg or ~~higher~~ lower per liter of said electrolyte.

2. (original) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1, wherein the content of said volatile organic acid is equal to 12 mg or higher per liter of said electrolyte.

3. (currently amended) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said volatile organic acid is ~~one acid or more~~ selected from a group consisting of HCOOH, CH₃COOH, C₂H₅COOH, n-C₃H₇COOH, ~~and iso-C₃H₇COOH~~, and mixtures thereof.

4. (original) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said separator contains a surfactant.

5. (original) The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.

6. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator and an electrolyte, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant, and

said method comprises a first step in which said lead-acid battery is container-formed; a second step in which said lead-acid battery is left at 40°C or higher for 12 hours or longer; and a third step in which said lead-acid battery is charge so as to make a charged electrical quantity equal to a rated capacity or larger.

7. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an electrolyte, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant, and

said method comprises a step of leaving said lead-acid battery at 40°C or higher for 12 hours or longer, followed by charging said lead-acid battery with 30% or higher of a theoretical capacity of a positive active material provided in said positive electrode.

8. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing the lead-acid battery according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.